been requested to disburse the arrears before the close of this financial year. Process for release of funds for World Bank-assisted ICDS Projects is underway.

Prices of NCERT text books

†1806. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the prices of new text books of NCERT; and

(b) if so, names of the States in which prices of text books of NCERT are being reduced by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Religious instructions in schools

1807. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give religious instructions in schools in the country; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in affirmative, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Cleanliness in South bound Trains

1808. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South bound long distance train coaches

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

lack cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep causing avoidable inconvenience to the rail passengers of these trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or purpose to take to ensure clealiness in South bound trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve cleanliness of all trains;

(i) Proper cleaning of both exterior, interior and toilets of all the coaches are ensured at the base stations before the departure of trains.

(ii) Periodical disinfection of coaches through approved agencies are carried out to eliminate the menace of cockroaches and rats;

(iii) Regular monitoring of condition of coaches through inspections.

(iv) All the coaches are watered at base stations and at nominated enroute watering stations to ensure availability of water in the coaches.

(v) High pressure car washing plants are used at important enroute stations to clean the toilets.

ROB/RUB in Gujarat

1809. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of over bridges/under bridges under construction in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Gujarat for construction of over bridges/under bridges at level crossing;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Following two works of ROBs/RUBs in